

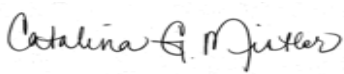


OPERATIONS MEMO

May 29, 2008

GOM 2008-08

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: Cal Grant Update

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to provide an updated status on the following academic year 2008-09 Cal Grant award processes:

- High School Entitlement Cal Grant Awards
- California Community College Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Awards
- Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards
- Cal Grant C
- Grant Rosters

High School Entitlement Cal Grant Awards

We are pleased to announce that as of May 23, we have sent letters to over 66,800 students offering them an academic year 2008-09 Entitlement Cal Grant award. The Commission continues to update and process on-time applications and corrections to applications for high school Entitlement applicants. The Commission encourages you to continue to report corrections to your students' records. More details regarding the high school Entitlement Cal Grant process can be found in Grant Operations Memo 2008-03, including copies of the letters and inserts students are receiving, at <http://www.csac.ca.gov/secured/operationmemos/2008.asp>.

California Community College Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Awards

The Commission has identified over 21,000 applicants with potential California Community College Transfer Entitlement eligibility. To receive further award consideration, each potential recipient must complete a



State of California
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Certification form (G-6), sign the student certification portion which states, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided is true and correct, and return the form to the Commission. To qualify for this award students must meet the following requirements:

- Have graduated from California high school or its equivalent after June 30, 2000;
- Be a California resident at time of high school graduation; and
- Attend a California Community College sometime during the 2007-08 school year and transfer to a baccalaureate degree granting institution for 2008-09.

Please note: In order to be eligible, students need only have attended a community college during any part of the 2007-08 school year. In addition, attendance at a baccalaureate degree granting institution is required for at least one term of the 2008-09 year or the award offer is void.

Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards

The Commission has selected the tentative Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards and is notifying eligible students. The Governor's May Revision of the 2008-09 Proposed Budget, that was released May 14, did not propose funding for new 2008-09 Competitive Cal Grant program awards. Until a final State Budget is passed and approved by the Legislature and Governor, these award offers will be tentative pending approval of a State Budget with funding for new 2008-09 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards.

The Commission will notify potential Competitive Cal Grant awardees via postcard (sample attached). The postcard refers applicants to WebGrants for Students for further information on their Cal Grant status.

For the March 2008 Competitive Cal Grant Program, over 69,000 financially eligible applicants were considered for 11,250 Competitive awards. As with last year, in addition to meeting general Cal Grant A and B eligibility criteria, Competitive applicants were scored for GPA, household size and income, parent's educational level, household status and for access equalizer. Applicants with a score of 155 or above were offered a tentative award. To assist you in advising your students, you may view a breakdown of their Cal Grant score by selecting the "Score Detail" button on the Student Award Detail screen on WebGrants.

The Commission will not be sending award disqualification letters to non-awarded applicants. Instead, students who have established WebGrants for Students accounts will be able to see their status and view information on the Competitive Cal Grant award process. In the past, the Commission has mailed in excess of 100,000 disqualification letters causing great concern to applicants, followed by greatly increased call volume as these students call for more information. Commission staff have noted in the past that a significant number of these students did not know that they were being considered for a Cal Grant award. Since corrections to Competitive Cal Grant application information are not allowed after award selection, these students may expend considerable effort to address a situation that can not be changed.

Cal Grant C

Since the Competitive Cal Grant program has been proposed for elimination, the Cal Grant C program, although not currently proposed for elimination or reduction, may be affected. In prior years, Cal Grant C Supplements have been sent only to those students who were already found ineligible for a Competitive Cal Grant A or B award. Since the Competitive program may be eliminated or the number of awards reduced, the Commission is mailing Cal Grant C Supplements not only to those applicants who were not selected for Cal Grant A or B program awards but also to those who have been tentatively selected for an A or B award but who would meet the Cal Grant C award selection criteria if no Competitive awards are made.

All recipients of Cal Grant C Supplements will have 30 days to complete and return the form to the Commission. Upon receipt, the Commission will score and rank the supplements in order to be prepared to select the 7,761 authorized Cal Grant C awards, regardless of whether official Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards are made. The processing of greater numbers of completed Cal Grant C Supplements may increase the Commission processing time for this program.

To assist in encouraging students to submit the Cal Grant C Supplement, school staff can access a list of all students who have been sent the Supplement who listed their school first on their FAFSA. This is available in Report and Data file format on the WebGrants Report Download screen off of the Data Transfer menu.

Grant Rosters

Rosters displaying all 2008-09 award recipients are now available on WebGrants. Students selected for Entitlement awards will show in the "eligible" section of the roster. Newly selected Competitive awardees have been placed in the "Not in Attendance" (NA) section of the roster to reflect the tentative nature of their award offer and to make sure that schools deciding to package these awards do so only on a deliberate basis. Placing the awards into the eligible section of the roster would cause the systems at some schools to automatically package these students with a Cal Grant award thus affecting other financial aid that the school could package. Schools may now process school change transactions. And, as a reminder, schools may not report payment transactions for the 2008-09 academic year until after the state budget is finalized.

Enclosed with this Operations Memo are copies of some of the letters and inserts referenced in this memo that students may be receiving. If you have any questions regarding this update, please contact the School Support staff at (888) 294-0153.

Enclosures: Cal Grant C Supplement
 Cal Grant C Supplement letter
 Competitive Cal Grant postcard
 Transfer Entitlement G-6 form

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school.